

[illegible]

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9. A method as claimed in Claim 8 including the steps of mounting a mold plate within said frame, filling the mold plate with foam beads using a fill gun or fill guns, circulating steam through the steam chest to expand the beads and cause them to gel, subsequently circulating cooling water through the steam chest.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 9 including the steps of inserting a frame with two sections into one shell of the steam chest, each section containing a mold plate, and filling each mold plate with foam beads using fill guns.

11. A method of manufacturing foam prototypes of various shapes and sizes using the same steam chest said steam chest having two shells that together enclose a cavity, said chest being able to accept tooling of various shapes and sizes within a specified range, said method comprising choosing a frame having a section or sections mounting the tooling in a section of said frame, said frame being sized to fit within the steam chest, installing the frame against a flange of one shell of the steam chest, mounting the steam chest in a horizontal or vertical press so that the operation of the press opens and closes the steam chest with the frame in between said two shells, filling the tooling with foam beads, heating the tooling by introducing steam into the steam chest to expand and fuse the beads, subsequently cooling the steam chest, retrieving the foam prototype formed in the tooling, repeating the method for tooling of a different size and shape by choosing a different frame while using the steam chest.